

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a suspension of hydrophobic oxide particles ~~which~~ that has a defined, adjustable viscosity, wherein said process comprises

suspending low structured hydrophobic oxidic particles in a suspension medium at ~~least one organic suspension agent~~, and

adding from 0.05 to 15% by weight based on the suspension medium, of high structured oxidic particles,

wherein the low structured hydrophobic oxidic particles are hydrophobic oxidic particles ~~which~~ that, compared with the corresponding high structured hydrophobic oxidic particles, have an at least 30% reduced dibutyl phthalate absorption and an at least 50% higher tamped density,

wherein the suspension medium consists of at least one organic suspension agent, and optionally, at least one suspension agent selected from the group consisting of water, alcohols, ketones, ethers, esters, aliphatic hydrocarbons, aromatic hydrocarbons, amides, sulfoxides, and combinations thereof, and

wherein the at least one organic suspension agent is selected from the group consisting of dimethylsulfoxide, toluene, tetrahydrofuran, cyclohexanone, dimethylformamide, and combinations thereof

~~wherein the surface of the low structured hydrophobic oxidic particles comprises an irregular fine structure in the range of 1 nm to 1000 nm,~~

~~wherein the irregular fine structure comprises elevations, and~~

~~wherein the elevations have an aspect ratio of greater than 1.0.~~

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic oxidic particles are hydrophobic pyrogenic oxidic particles or hydrophobic precipitated oxidic particles.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 2 ~~claim 1~~, comprising hydrophobic pyrogenic oxide particles, wherein the hydrophobic pyrogenic oxidic particles comprise a material selected from the group consisting of silicon oxide, aluminum oxide, zirconium oxide, titanium oxide, and a mixture thereof.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 2 ~~claim 1~~, comprising hydrophobic pyrogenic oxide particles, wherein the hydrophobic pyrogenic oxidic particles are hydrophobic pyrogenic silicas.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the low structured hydrophobic oxidic particles are added in an amount from 0.05% to 2.5% by weight based on the suspension medium.

Claims 6-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A suspension of hydrophobic oxidic particles suspended in a suspension medium, wherein the suspension ~~which~~ has a defined, adjustable viscosity, the suspension consisting of

~~wherein~~ low structured hydrophobic oxidic particles, and from 0.05% to 15% by weight based on the suspension medium, of high structured hydrophobic oxidic particles, ~~are present in the suspension in at least one organic suspension agent,~~

wherein the low structured hydrophobic oxidic particles are hydrophobic oxidic particles ~~that~~ ~~which~~, when compared with the corresponding high structured hydrophobic oxidic particles, have an at least 30% reduced dibutyl phthalate absorption and an at least 50% high tamped density,

wherein the suspension medium consists of at least one organic suspension agent, and optionally, at least one suspension agent selected from the group consisting of water, alcohols, ketones, ethers, esters, aliphatic hydrocarbons, aromatic hydrocarbons, amides, sulfoxides, and combinations thereof, and

wherein the at least one organic suspension agent is selected from the group consisting of dimethylsulfoxide, toluene, tetrahydrofuran, cyclohexanone, dimethylformamide, and combinations thereof

~~wherein the surface of the low structured hydrophobic oxidic particles comprises an irregular fine structure in the range of 1 nm to 1000 nm,~~  
~~wherein the irregular fine structure comprises elevations, and~~  
~~wherein the elevations have an aspect ratio of greater than 1.0.~~

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A suspension produced by the process as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The suspension of claim 8, wherein the suspension comprises from 0.05% to 2.5% by weight of hydrophobic low-structured oxidic particles based on the suspension medium.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 8, comprising a dynamic viscosity from 1.0 to 1,000 mPa s at a shear rate of greater than  $20 \text{ s}^{-1}$ .

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The suspension of claim 8, wherein the suspension medium comprises water as well as the organic suspension agent.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a soil and water repellent coating on at least one surface of an article comprising  
applying the suspension of claim 8 to the at least one surface of the article, and  
removing the suspension medium,  
thereby producing the soil and water repellent coating on the at least one surface of the article.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 13, wherein the suspension is applied to the at least one surface of the article by knife coating.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 13, wherein the article is a textile.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 13 wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of apparel, an industrial textile, and a textile building fabric.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The suspension of claim 9, wherein the suspension comprises from 0.05% to 2.5% by weight of hydrophobic low-structured oxidic particles based on the suspension medium.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The suspension of claim 9, comprising a dynamic viscosity from 1.0 to 1,000 mPa s at a shear rate of greater than  $20 \text{ s}^{-1}$ .

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The suspension of claim 9, wherein the suspension medium comprises water as well as the at least one organic suspension agent.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a soil and water repellent coating on at least one surface of an article comprising  
applying the suspension of claim 9 to the at least one surface of the article, and  
removing the suspension medium,  
thereby producing the soil and water repellent coating on the at least one surface of the article.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the suspension is applied by knife coating.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the article is a textile.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of apparel, an industrial textile, and a textile building fabric.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the suspension is in the form of a paste.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The suspension of claim 8, wherein the suspension is in the form of a paste.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 13, wherein the suspension is in the form of a paste.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, wherein the suspension is in the form of a paste.

Claim 30 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein the suspension medium additionally comprises at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of water,

alcohols, ketones, ethers, esters, aliphatic hydrocarbons, aromatic hydrocarbons, amides, sulfoxides, and combinations thereof.

Claim 31 (New): The suspension of claim 8, wherein the suspension medium additionally comprises at least one suspension agent selected from the group consisting of water, alcohols, ketones, ethers, esters, aliphatic hydrocarbons, aromatic hydrocarbons, amides, sulfoxides, and combinations thereof.

Claim 32 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein the suspension medium comprises water as well as the at least one organic suspension agent.